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09/705,858	11/03/2000	Felix G.T.I. Andrew	205350	6381

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EXAMINER

ZHEN, LI B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2126

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/705,858

Applicant(s)

ANDREW ET AL.

Examiner

Li B. Zhen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 8, 10 – 21, 23 – 25, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,412,021 to Nguyen.

As to claim 15, Nguyen teaches determining a notification classification [notification class instance interprets the type of event from the event ID and handles the event as appropriate; column 4, lines 65 – 67], and rendering the notification in accordance with the notification classification [Each applet event is an instance of an applet event class, and contains an event ID...the event ID is used by an event handler to classify the type of event for use in determining an appropriate response to the event...the response to an applet event entails one or more forms of user notification, such as changing the button icon in the selection bar, setting a fixed or flashing glyph on the button icon, displaying a message in a dialog box, or playing an audio clip; column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claim 1, Nguyen teaches receiving a notification to provide to a user [applet 602 communicates by sending applet events to notification class 601...notification class

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601 implements one or more methods for handling the applet events thus obtained, Fig. 6B; column 11, line 65 – column 12, line 12], deciding a notification type [notification class instance interprets the type of event from the event ID and handles the event as appropriate; column 4, lines 65 – 67], and rendering the notification in accordance with the notification type [Each applet event is an instance of an applet event class, and contains an event ID...the event ID is used by an event handler to classify the type of event for use in determining an appropriate response to the event...the response to an applet event entails one or more forms of user notification, such as changing the button icon in the selection bar, setting a fixed or flashing glyph on the button icon, displaying a message in a dialog box, or playing an audio clip; column 12, lines 20 – 40]. As to determining a priority to assign the notice and rendering the notification in accordance with the priority, Nguyen teaches generating applet events and place the events on the event queue of the notification class [column 12, lines 13 – 19]. When the event is placed on the event queue, the event is assigned a priority because the events in the queue are processed in a first-in-first-out sequence. For example, event A has a higher priority than event B if event A is placed in the queue before event B. The events are rendered in accordance to priority because the events in the queue are processed in a first-in-first-out sequence; therefore, event A, which has the higher priority, is processed before event B.

As to claim 2, Nguyen teaches determining a notification medium to render the notification [a possible response to an applet event indicating receipt of new mail is to call a setIcon() method to change the image of the button icon in the selection bar to

indicate that new mail has arrived...other notification methods may be called by the event handler of notification class 601 in response to specific events include setFlashingGlyph(), setFixedGlyph(), playAudioClip() and showMessageDialog(), Fig. 6; column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claim 3, Nguyen teaches determining an area on a display to render the notification [a possible response to an applet event indicating receipt of new mail is to call a setIcon() method to change the image of the button icon in the selection bar to indicate that new mail has arrived...other notification methods may be called by the event handler of notification class 601 in response to specific events include setFlashingGlyph(), setFixedGlyph(), playAudioClip() and showMessageDialog(), Fig. 6; column 12, lines 20 – 40]. The location can be either in the selection bar or a dialog box.

As to claim 4, Nguyen teaches receiving a property of the notification, and receiving a notification to be sent to the user [Each applet event is an instance of an applet event class, and contains an event ID...event ID is used by an event handler to classify the type of event for use in determining an appropriate response to the event; column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claim 5, Nguyen teaches XML-based notification comprising a notification classification tag and a notification type tag [type of display mode to be used when displaying the HTML document; column 10, lines 47 – 67; column 8, lines 15 – 27].

As to claim 6, Nguyen teaches selecting one of a display notification [a setIcon() method to change the image of the button icon in the selection bar to indicate that new

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mail has arrived...setFlashingGlyph(), setFixedGlyph(), and showMessageDialog(); column 12, lines 20 – 40] and an audio notification [playAudioClip(); column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claims 7, 8, 24 and 25, Nguyen selecting one of [a possible response to an applet event indicating receipt of new mail is to call a setIcon() method to change the image of the button icon in the selection bar to indicate that new mail has arrived...other notification methods may be called by the event handler of notification class 601 in response to specific events include setFlashingGlyph(), setFixedGlyph(), playAudioClip() and showMessageDialog(), Fig. 6; column 12, lines 20 – 40] an alpha-blended display, a transient display, a transient alpha-blended display, an animated display [calendar applet can display a small pop-up window with appointment information, and the clock can animate to display the time; column 9, lines 45 – 57], and a normal display [showMessageDialog()].

As to claims 10 and 11, Nguyen teaches queuing the notification [applet 602 is able to generate applet events, such as applet event 603, and place those events on event queue 613 of notification class 601, Fig. 6B; column 12, lines 13 – 19]. As to the queue arranged according to the priority of the notification, see the rejection to claim 1 above.

As to claim 12, Nguyen teaches flushing a queue of prior notifications [applet 602 is able to generate applet events, such as applet event 603, and place those events on event queue 613 of notification class 601, Fig. 6B; column 12, lines 13 – 19]. An event is removed from the event queue when the event is processed.

As to claim 13, Nguyen teaches determining the priority to assign the notification comprises the step of determining a number of times the user is provided notification [applet 602 is able to generate applet events, such as applet event 603, and place those events on event queue 613 of notification class 601, Fig. 6B; column 12, lines 13 – 19]. The priority of an event A is based on the number of events in the queue [number of times the user is provided notification] before event A is added to the queue.

As to claim 14, Nguyen teaches determining a notification classification of the notification [notification class instance interprets the type of event from the event ID and handles the event as appropriate; column 4, lines 65 – 67], a user preference list [a configuration file specifying the button icons to be displayed in the selection bar...also contains information associated with each button icon, including the URL of an HTML document containing the desired applet to be invoked upon selection of the button icon, several default images for the button icon, and the location of the code for the notification class to associate with the button icon and its applet; column 4, lines 38 – 52], and rendering the notification if the notification classification is listed in the list of selected classifications [Each applet event is an instance of an applet event class, and contains an event ID...the event ID is used by an event handler to classify the type of event for use in determining an appropriate response to the event...the response to an applet event entails one or more forms of user notification, such as changing the button icon in the selection bar, setting a fixed or flashing glyph on the button icon, displaying a message in a dialog box, or playing an audio clip; column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claim 16, Nguyen teaches rendering the notification in the notification medium in accordance with the notification classification [Each applet event is an instance of an applet event class, and contains an event ID...the event ID is used by an event handler to classify the type of event for use in determining an appropriate response to the event... the response to an applet event entails one or more forms of user notification, such as changing the button icon in the selection bar, setting a fixed or flashing glyph on the button icon, displaying a message in a dialog box, or playing an audio clip; column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claim 17, Nguyen teaches rendering the notification accordance with a user preference [configuration files list the button icons to be displayed in the selection bar and provide information associated with each button icon... Identification of the button icons, or buttons, to be included in the selection bar may be provided as a property in a configuration file; column 10, lines 39 – 47].

As to claim 18, Nguyen teaches the user preference [configuration file; column 10, lines 45 – 67], positional location being a location on a display where the notification is to be displayed [see the rejection to claim 3 above], the classification size being an area in a display area where the notification is to be displayed [type of display mode; column 10, line 56 – column 11, line 2], determining if the classification enable is enabled for the notification classification, and if the classification enable is enabled for the notification classification [Each applet event is an instance of an applet event class, and contains an event ID; column 12, lines 20 – 40], rendering the notification at the positional location and at a size equal to the classification size [the event ID is used by

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an event handler to classify the type of event for use in determining an appropriate response to the event...the response to an applet event entails one or more forms of user notification, such as changing the button icon in the selection bar, setting a fixed or flashing glyph on the button icon, displaying a message in a dialog box, or playing an audio clip; column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claims 19 and 20, Nguyen teaches selecting one of a contact classification [a setIcon() method to change the image of the button icon in the selection bar to indicate that new mail has arrived...setFlashGlyph(), setFixedGlyph(), and showMessageDialog(); column 12, lines 20 – 40], a financial classification [calendar applet can display a small pop-up window with appointment information; column 9, lines 46 – 59], and an audio classification [playAudioClip(); column 12, lines 20 – 40].

As to claim 21, Nguyen teaches sending a pre-notification notification prior to performing the step of rendering the notification [applet 602 obtains a reference to the instance of notification class 601 to determine where to direct the applet events...a reference is obtained, via desktop manager application 600, by calling the getNotifierThread() method of the notification class, and identifying the calling applet as a method argument; column 12, lines 1 – 12].

As to claim 23, Nguyen teaches rendering the notification using the rendering type [configuration files list the button icons to be displayed in the selection bar and provide information associated with each button icon... Identification of the button icons, or buttons, to be included in the selection bar may be provided as a property in a configuration file; column 10, lines 39 – 47].

As to claim 30, Nguyen teaches performing at least one action if the notification is selected by a user selection device [a user wishes to use one of the enterprise applications, the user presses the associated button icon in the selection bar by pressing a mouse button while the mouse cursor is on the desired application's button icon...this action triggers a mouse event that results in the loading and display of the selected application in the main application window; column 7 lines 63 – 67].

As to claim 32, Nguyen teaches rendering the notification in one of a long version [showMessageDialog() to display a message in a dialog box; column 13, lines 35 – 50] and a short version [a seticon() method to display the updated clock images on the associated button icon...other examples of notification methods that could be invoked are setFixGlyph() to set a glyph on the button icon; column 13, lines 35 – 50].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,942 to Ruckdashel.

As to claim 9, see the rejection to claim 6 with regards to selecting one of one of a display notification and an audio notification. Nguyen does not appear to teach a pager notification.

However, Ruckdashel teaches a method of event notification using a pager [boxes 713 and 715 relate to other methods, email and wireless messaging device or pager, of notifying the user as the specified appointment approaches; column 5, lines 20 – 36].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of a pager notification as taught by Ruckdashel to the invention of Nguyen because pager notification allows a user who is away from their computer to be notified of an event.

5. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent No.6,501,739 to Cohen.

As to claim 22, Nguyen does not teach converting a text message into an audio message.

However, Cohen teaches, converting a text message into an audio message [converting a text message into an audio message; column 3, lines 40 – 57].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of converting a text message into an audio message as taught by Cohen to the invention of Nguyen because this would allow the system to vocally notify the user of an event.

6. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,357 to Frulla.

Nguyen does not teach performing at least one action if one of a keyword and a key-phrase is spoken by a user.

However, Frulla teaches performing at least one action if one of a keyword and a key-phrase is spoken by a user [upon activation and replay, the voice command causes the cursor to be positioned as indicated in block 109 and the mouse events to generated as shown in block 111...if the voice command also has keyboard events, these are also generated; column 10, line 37 - column 11, line 13].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of performing at least one action if one of a keyword and a key-phrase is spoken by a user as taught by Frulla to the invention of Nguyen because this allows a user to control a computer device with voice inputs.

7. Claims 26 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,211 to Shealy.

As to claims 26 and 27, Nguyen does not teach a history of notifications.

However, Shealy teaches a history of notifications [history log data structure; column 3, lines 5 – 13; column 3, line 43 – column 4, line 5], flushing read items from the history that have been read by a user, and flushing old items from the history [events may be logged when a message is pulled from or put onto a service queue...when messages in a given priority band are flushed from a queue; column 8, lines 25 – 52].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of history of notifications as taught by Shealy to the invention of Nguyen because this would provide a log of old notifications that have been processed.

As to claims 28 and 29, Nguyen as modified teaches displaying the history [Utility 90 permits user interface with the driver...to obtain history log information in the form of a report 92, Fig. 2; column 3, lines 43 – 50 of Shealy], and performing at least one action if a notification in the history is selected by a user selection device [interface utility 90 is preferably utilized to configure the device driver and to process collected information...each argument to the utility implies an operation, and the operations are performed in the order that the arguments are given on the command line; column 11, lines 33 – 45 of Shealy].

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,405,204 to Baker teaches implementing a notification system using XML technology.

U.S. Patent No. 5,896,131 to Alexander teaches a graphical display system in which a background graphical image is at least partially visible within a foreground window.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0035649 to Korn teaches an event notification system that provides notification of the occurrence of events in connection with objects.

U.S. Patent No. 6,496,872 to Katz teaches a computer system for automatically instantiating tasks designated by a user.

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U.S. Patent No. 6,091,415 to Chang teaches displaying multiple dialog boxes in a window display.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li B. Zhen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3406.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8am - 4:30pm.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Li B. Zhen
Examiner
Art Unit 2126

lbz
June 26, 2003



**JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**